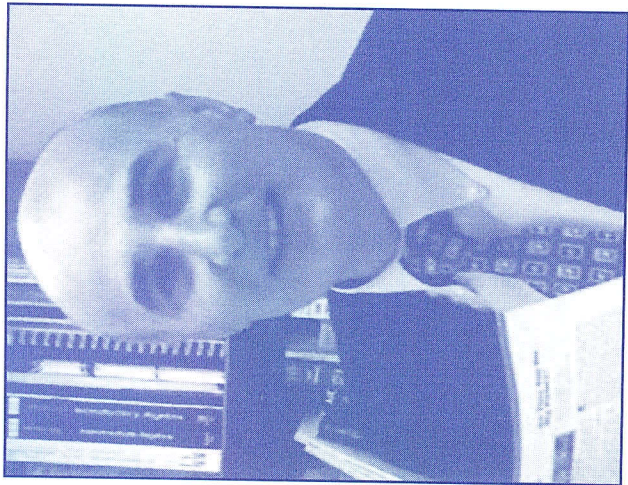


GUEST SPEAKER

DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR 2000

Dr. M. Vali Siadat
Math Department Chair



Dr. M. Vali Siadat is a skilled academic, with two doctorates in mathematics (one in pure mathematics and the other in mathematics education) both from the University of Illinois at Chicago, earned following the earning of his B.S. degree from the University of California at Berkeley. Dr. Siadat has been on the faculty of Richard J. Daley College since 1982.

Throughout his 18 years of teaching and service at Richard J. Daley College, Dr. Siadat has been a valued member of faculty and a dedicated member of the campus community. He does more than teaching his classes in a task he performs so brilliantly. He mentors students, performs committee work, performs research, and serves the district. He is a team player who has always shown his respect and appreciation for his colleagues, and has in turn been recognized and honored by them.

Since 1997 he has been chairman in the Department of Mathematics. During that time, the department has consolidated its curriculum, expanded its course offerings from 45 to 72, and expanded its enrollments from 1000 to nearly 2000. Beyond this, Dr. Siadat took the lead in developing an articulation agreement in mathematics between the City Colleges of Chicago and the University of Illinois at Chicago. His long, high quality of service to the department, the college and the district have made him among the most respected faculty members in the City Colleges of Chicago. As a result, earlier this year Dr. Siadat was chosen by his colleagues as the Distinguished Professor for Richard J. Daley College for 1999-2000, the highest teaching award bestowed by this institution.

Dr. Siadat's contributions go beyond this as well. For the past three years, Dr. Siadat has been the director of Chicago PREP, also known as Projecto Access-Chicago. This is an intensive mathematics-based academic summer program targeting low income and minority students in middle school and high school, funded by the National Aeronautics and Space

Administration (NASA) in collaboration with Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU). Projecto Access - Chicago is one of only nine programs in the nation funded under the aegis of NASA/HACU. Eighty students attend five days a week for eight weeks, working with faculty members and tutors, in preparation for accelerated progress in high school and, ultimately, careers in the mathematical sciences and engineering. Dr. Siadat's dedication to the project has been exceptional, including attending NASA conferences and workshops and travel to other cities to meet and collaborate with colleagues at other sites. The success of students, measured by pre- and post-tests in logic, probability and statistics and physics has been excellent. In addition to directing the program at the local site, Dr. Siadat has taken responsibility for writing and preparing the instructional unit on mathematical logic. This work has subsequently been adopted and disseminated for use at the other colleges as well as other NASA-sponsored Projecto Access sites.

Professor Siadat has also been active in academic research. Since 1993 and, in collaboration with a UIC Math faculty, he has done extensive research on causes of student failure in mathematics and developed and implemented a highly successful program - the Keystone Project - a new approach to teaching remedial mathematics that has not only improved student outcomes in Math, but also has shown to enhance students' general educational skills as manifested in improved reading scores.

The Keystone Project has placed Daley College on the national spotlight. During 1998- 2000 academic years, it was awarded with an unsolicited grant from the Gabriella and Paul Rosenbaum Foundation. In January 1999, it was featured as a lead article in the education section of Chicago Tribune. In April 1999, it won a national award in the Exemplary Classroom Initiatives Award from the National Council of Instructional Administrators. In January 2000, it was featured as the front-page article in the journal Teaching For Success, the largest national faculty development publication in the country, the first issue in a series dedicated to teaching innovations. All these could not have happened without the undisputed leadership of Dr. Vali Siadat, our distinguished professor and speaker today.

A distinguished professor must demonstrate dedication, a superior level of academic achievement, professional growth, a high degree of preparation, and a desire for excellence in all aspects of college service. Dr. Siadat exemplifies all those hallmarks.